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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 8 February 21, 1956

Week ended February 18

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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AGRI-WASH

Cattle marketings were larger than during the previous week but daily supplies were more evenly distributed and trading showed increased stability. Prices of fed steers closed steady to firm at some markets, instances as much as 50¢ higher on Choice and Prime, with late trend at several points steady to 50¢ lower. Hog prices showed a general decline during the first half of the week when marketings were fairly large. Part of the downturn was recovered later when runs were curtailed due to unfavorable weather and roads. Butchers closed unevenly steady to 75¢ lower, mostly 25-50¢ off. Late sales of slaughter lambs were largely 25-50¢ lower than the previous week's close.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle receipts increased moderately but were more evenly distributed than during the previous week and price fluctuations were considerably less severe. Nevertheless, with further weakness in the wholesale beef trade and with continued liberal numbers of old crop steers of heavy weights included, buyers were rather selective in their purchases, and a somewhat irregular price trend developed. At Chicago most Prime steers and Choice offerings under 1100# closed steady to 50¢ higher, others steady to 50¢ lower. At Omaha late sales were steady to 50¢ lower, with declines of 50¢ or more at South St. Paul. At other Missouri River markets steers closed mainly steady to firm. Trend on heifers was steady to 50¢ lower, and prices of cows also weakened at most markets. Good and Choice steers predominated and average weights of beef steers at Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City were all above the previous week. The average of 1168# at Chicago was 74# above a year ago; the average at Omaha 68# above a year ago, while at Sioux City the week's average of 1137# was 52# heavier than a year ago.

At Chicago a small supply of average to high-Prime 1100-1346# steers brought $23.75-24.50, one load high Prime 1157# $24.75; bulk Choice and Prime $17.50-23.50; Good $15.50-18.00. Most Prime 1300-1500# steers sold there from $20.00-23.00; same grade 1600-1700# $18.00-19.00; load Choice and Prime 1780# $17.00. At other midwest markets Good and Choice steers which sold from $15.00-19.25 formed bulk of the supply, a scattering high-Choice and Prime $19.50-22.75.

Slaughter of 1,696,893 cattle and 601,938 calves under Federal inspection in January were both new records for the month.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Seasonally small to moderate supplies of stocker and feeder cattle and calves at terminal markets fell somewhat short of the numbers marketed the previous week. Good to low-Choice yearling and two-year-old steers again made up a relatively large percent of the overall supplies. Receipts at some markets included sizable numbers of shortfed cattle which with a more favorable feed-price relationship would have attracted feeder buyer competition. However, bulk of the two-way steers went into slaughter channels as feedlot operators were inclined to proceed very cautiously in the face of continued weakness on fat cattle. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 12,565, compared with 14,168 head a week earlier and 13,600 a year ago. Trading around the market circuit was only moderately active and somewhat uneven but for the most part prices varied but little from a steady basis. Yearling stockers and calves in a few instances were moderately stronger while feeder steers 800# up occasionally sold weak to 50¢ lower. At Kansas City the average cost of all feeder steers 800# up shipped to the country during the week at $16.11 was $4.32 lower than a year ago. However, the week's average price of all beef steers sold on that market was only $16.44 or $6.13 lower than a year ago. Consequently, there is little in the current price picture to stimulate interest in feedlot

replacements. A further comparison of average prices at Kansas City shows that the average price of $16.80 for all stocker and feeder steers 500# up was 36¢ higher than the week's average cost of beef steers on that market.

A few Choice 750-800# feeders at the various markets brought $17.50-18.00, but bulk Good and Choice 800# up cashed from $15.00-17.00, Choice 900# occasionally down to $16.00. At the same time, Good and Choice yearling stock steers 650# down ranged from $16.00-20.50, few Choice short yearlings to $21.50, and Choice 442# steer calves $22.00. Good and Choice yearling heifers bulked at $14.25-16.50, with heifer calves up to $18.00. Limited numbers of Medium and Good stock cows were in good demand at $10.00-12.50.

HOGS

Combined receipts of salable hogs at the 12 terminal markets and the Interior Area of Iowa and Southern Minnesota were slightly below the previous week's total, but were nearly 20 percent above a year ago. Seasonally large receipts early in the week along with the slow, mostly weak to lower trend on wholesale fresh pork prices, influenced substantial declines on hogs, and prices dropped to the lowest levels in nearly a month. Snow, sleet and slippery roads cut receipts at 12 markets Thursday and Friday to the smallest volume of the year for those days and part of early sharp declines were recovered. Compared with a week earlier, butchers closed steady to 75¢ lower, mostly 25-50¢ off. The least decline was on the decreased supply of butchers around 250# up. Price differentials between light and heavy butchers narrowed considerably in several sections and butchers weighing 200-300# often sold within a $1.00-1.50 spread. Sows were steady to 50¢ lower. Shipping demand, influenced by the narrow dressed pork outlet and the increase of new crop lightweights in Eastern areas, was rather poor compared with previous weeks. The slightly larger supply of new crop hogs reduced the average butcher weights a few pounds at several midwest marketing points. There was marked price discrimination against weights under 180#, some of these selling 50¢-1.00 or more below comparable 180-220# butchers. Although a few more U. S. No. 1 and 2 grade lots were offered at some markets, these were still in comparatively small supply. Lots lacking uniformity or grading mostly No. 3 consistently sold at the low end of the price range for the weight.

Stocker and feeder pigs remained steady at S. St. Paul with Good and Choice cashing from $10.00-11.00. Prices at Sioux City were weak to 50¢ lower, bulk Good and Choice $10.00-10.50, a few $10.75. A few sales of 85-140# at Kansas City brought $8.00-10.00. Feeders were in small supply at Memphis but demand was narrow and prices were 50¢ lower. Medium and Good 70-140# feeders sold late from $9.00-9.50, some Good offerings early to $10.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets were slightly larger than last week, but were again about 20% smaller than the corresponding week a year ago. Trading was generally slow. Late prices on slaughter lambs were steady to 75¢ lower, with most points showing downturns of 25-50¢. Feeder lambs were steady to 50¢ higher, with the exception of Sioux City where early declines of 50-75¢ were posted. Sheep sold mostly steady to 50¢ higher. Lambs weighing over 105-110# continued to be discounted up to $2.00 and more per cwt. Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down bulked at $17.50-20.00, a limited number Choice and Prime $20.25-21.00. Good to Prime 112-140# lambs brought $17.00-20.65, a few 150-170# lots $15.00-16.00. Cull to low-Good lambs brought $10.00-18.00. Good to Prime shorn lambs 111# down with No. 1 to summer shorn pelts sold at $17.50-19.50, some with fresh shorn to No. 2 pelts $16.00-17.50 at Fort Worth. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes realized $3.00-8.00. Medium to Choice feeder lambs turned at $16.00-20.00, a few shorn feeders down to $14.50.

Continued on page 164.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955
Chicago	46,506	41,306	1,333	1,239	51,703	52,865	10,040	16,918
Cincinnati	4,193	3,541	1,050	1,092	19,524	19,608	912	486
Denver	13,835	13,012	661	924	3,004	3,315	22,361	26,513
Fort Worth	7,241	8,700	2,173	2,135	2,563	1,975	11,363	12,841
Indianapolis	8,582	8,867	1,054	1,113	54,790	62,485	2,440	1,705
Kansas City	21,948	15,812	1,190	1,281	12,496	9,581	4,051	3,588
Oklahoma City	11,415	10,103	1,174	1,447	4,441	2,582	2,864	1,832
Omaha	39,956	37,438	929	777	55,130	42,795	15,314	17,439
St. Joseph	16,102	14,123	761	829	27,668	21,467	2,712	5,442
St. Louis NSY	15,834	14,962	3,280	3,160	62,670	51,746	4,128	4,329
Sioux City	24,199	22,691	875	244	39,717	38,402	9,916	15,089
S. St. Paul	20,313	22,199	11,247	11,100	71,215	59,163	11,044	13,422
Total	230,124	212,954	25,727	25,341	404,921	365,984	97,145	119,604
Feb. 11, 1956	199,626		27,777		402,803		92,912	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Feb. 18, 1956	391,000	27,700
Feb. 11, 1956	405,000	30,500
Feb. 19, 1955	301,000	28,000

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month	
	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 17 1955	Jan. 1956	Jan. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	262	682	517	1,891	2,225
901-1000	976	1,920	2,027	6,035	8,611
801-900	2,277	2,618	2,525	16,183	15,367
701-800	2,373	3,037	2,797	17,268	17,526
501-700	6,677	5,911	5,734	34,768	44,818
Total steers 10 mkts.	12,565	14,168	13,600	76,205	88,547
Av. wts. " " "	712#	750#	742#	721#	711#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.36	$16.31	$19.84	$16.64	$19.79
" " " Chicago	16.00	16.65	20.23	16.76	19.78
" " " Ks. City	16.80	17.02	20.57	17.13	20.40
" " " Omaha	15.82	15.84	19.61	16.34	19.58
" " " S. St. Paul	15.13	14.98	19.14	15.06	17.20
" " " Sioux City	16.69	16.47	20.43	16.64	20.18
" " " Denver	16.42	15.26	19.57	17.90	22.36
" " " Ft. Worth	16.14	15.65	19.00	16.27	18.52
" " " Okla. City	16.38	16.33	18.86	16.25	18.05
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.54	15.86	18.90	16.35	19.54
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.38	15.84	19.21	16.09	18.38
Total calves–10 mkts.	3,782	4,235	4,675	34,140	49,189
" cows.					
heifers, bulls–" "	2,005	2,477	2,724	14,560	20,821

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	Feb. 17 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	5253	4704	811	17.4	18.2	3.6	1278	1255	1139	22.09	21.52	31.72
Choice	16943	14295	11494	56.3	55.3	50.9	1185	1184	1148	19.14	18.51	26.17
Good	6306	5459	8431	20.9	21.1	37.4	1065	1076	1055	17.07	16.48	22.34
Com'l.	1151	1121	1454	3.9	4.3	6.4	1036	987	926	14.79	14.61	17.94
Utility	460	282	386	1.5	1.1	1.7	1011	926	919	13.46	13.06	15.25
All grades	30113	25861	22576				1168	1163	1094	19.08	18.51	24.36
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	370	318	10	2.1	2.3	.1	1299	1224	1094	21.35	21.33	31.50
Choice	10508	6742	7312	59.4	50.0	49.9	1169	1159	1112	18.14	18.06	24.33
Good	5379	5137	6341	30.4	38.1	43.3	1074	1099	1023	16.18	16.07	21.15
Com'l.	1284	1007	760	7.3	7.5	5.2	1027	1008	958	13.78	13.79	17.12
Utility	151	279	221	.8	2.1	1.5	979	945	943	11.69	11.77	14.72
All grades	17692	13483	14644				1131	1122	1063	17.32	17.00	22.54
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	469	167	34	5.8	2.4	.5	1295	1280	1255	20.28	20.84	31.47
Choice	3837	3025	2687	47.5	44.4	38.7	1186	1168	1132	18.32	18.51	24.89
Good	3392	3062	3721	42.0	44.9	53.6	1072	1090	1060	16.64	16.62	21.39
Com'l.	285	507	311	3.5	7.4	4.5	969	1022	1026	14.24	14.21	17.28
Utility	101	59	185	1.2	.9	2.7	1060	973	981	11.03	11.88	14.98
All grades	8074	6820	6938				1137	1123	1085	17.58	17.41	22.53
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	27	37	--	.4	.5	--	1188	1168	--	19.89	19.68	--
Choice	2849	2871	1908	33.8	41.1	40.9	1097	1134	1120	17.79	17.73	24.26
Good	3891	3077	2594	46.1	44.1	55.6	1054	1087	997	16.27	16.21	21.52
Com'l.	1299	761	119	15.2	10.9	2.6	980	1101	997	14.92	14.49	17.65
Utility	377	237	41	4.5	3.4	.9	1080	1046	1042	12.26	12.51	15.14
All grades	8443	6983	4662				1059	1107	1048	16.44	16.57	22.57
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	23	7	--	.4	.1	--	1194	1141	--	22.12	21.50	--
Choice	1398	595	185	25.3	10.6	5.4	1085	1069	1056	18.39	17.95	25.40
Good	3149	3899	2231	57.0	69.3	65.2	1039	1025	1025	16.54	16.03	22.77
Com'l.	836	1004	869	15.1	17.9	25.4	963	981	957	14.74	13.85	19.63
Utility	120	118	134	2.2	2.1	4.0	919	945	853	12.71	12.12	16.30
All grades	5526	5623	3419				1037	1020	1003	16.73	15.80	21.94
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	38	--	1	.5	--	--	1455	--	1050	20.00	--	27.05
Choice	2423	1593	2675	32.5	32.3	47.6	1138	1149	1120	17.97	17.63	24.23
Good	3651	2447	2572	49.0	49.7	45.7	1093	1099	1021	16.49	16.16	20.67
Com'l.	1189	795	330	16.0	16.1	5.9	1028	1029	1025	14.62	13.92	17.57
Utility	149	93	46	2.0	1.9	.8	935	928	798	12.07	11.89	13.83
All grades	7450	4928	5624				1096	1101	1067	16.66	16.25	22.23

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	17 1955	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 9 1956	17 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	--	--	70	--	--	1.9	--	--	1108	--	--	27.00
Choice	3522	1768	2641	69.4	64.3	72.1	1150	1145	1105	18.67	18.92	25.33
Good	1428	895	941	28.1	32.5	25.7	1181	1068	1053	16.93	16.44	23.14
Com'l.	128	76	9	2.5	2.8	.3	1067	930	796	13.85	13.05	15.29
Utility	--	12	--	--	.4	--	--	895	--	--	11.46	--
All grades	5078	2751	3661				1156	1113	1091	18.06	17.98	24.80

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb
Feb. 18, 1956	361	205.4	139	15.7	1,460	193.4	266	13.0	427.5	51.1
Feb. 11, 1956	350	199.2	135	15.3	1,367	181.0	276	13.5	409.0	49.2
Feb. 4, 1956 1/	363	203.6	130	14.6	1,378	180.8	295	14.8	413.8	48.0
Feb. 19, 1955	333	178.0	126	13.8	1,189	162.8	282	13.9	368.5	43.0
Percentage change from:										
Feb. 11, 1956	+3	+3	+8	+3	+7	+7	-4	-4	+5	+4
Feb. 19, 1955	+8	+15	+10	+14	+23	+19	-6	-6	+16	+19

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Feb. 18, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	232	132	103	49	15.1
Feb. 11, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	234	132	103	49	15.4
Feb. 4, 1956	1,020	561	205	112	236	131	102	50	15.3
Feb. 19, 1955	981	535	200	110	240	137	103	49	15.1

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 19 1955
Boston, New York City Area	12,917	10,854	10,734	9,518	56,682	49,770	41,754	48,509
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,541	7,589	1,344	1,178	28,948	25,494	2,320	1,934
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,805	15,807	6,314	4,680	114,453	93,394	16,149	12,703
Chicago Area	25,317	25,218	7,090	7,395	61,117	68,963	5,037	7,418
St. Paul-Wis Areas	30,997	29,300	32,838	30,442	128,759	102,052	15,799	14,969
St. Louis Area	13,558	12,325	4,347	4,711	101,698	74,778	6,020	8,070
Sioux City	11,579	8,043	85	9	26,149	18,278	3,728	5,461
Omaha Area	32,622	30,291	900	864	96,668	64,763	17,092	20,040
Kansas City	15,124	13,059	2,882	3,006	43,635	24,196	9,957	9,276
Iowa-So. Minnesota	29,435	27,041	13,754	12,681	323,938	281,455	33,048	34,091
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,427	8,414	6,622	6,929	57,599	45,402	Not available	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,155	6,652	2,781	2,624	31,314	22,530	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	18,188	17,824	3,486	2,900	60,671	48,098	13,032	16,028
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	13,246	13,462	6,259	6,211	28,278	19,203	11,949	10,573
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	17,113	15,592	1,173	1,054	14,911	16,014	26,457	23,115
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	27,817	25,224	3,008	2,436	39,739	33,912	25,183	31,961
Portland, Seattle, Spokane 1/	7,323	6,533	438	432	19,087	13,853	4,280	4,332
Total	295,164	273,233	104,055	97,070	1,233,646	1,002,155	231,805	248,480
Accumulation to date	2,139,308	2,027,707	722,224	713,778	8,787,268	7,430,287	1,782,024	1,753,399

1/ Revision for week ended Feb. 4, 1956 - Hogs 19,892; sheep 4,591.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Feb. 17,1956	2	29	5	9	5	13	5	2	5	20	45	30	40
Feb. 10,1956	3	28	8	9	5	17	8	1	8	15	50	22	35
Feb. 18,1955	4	26	8	10	5	17	8	5	5	30	55	30	40
Slaughter cows													
Feb. 17,1956	7	11	11	9	19	11	30	14	10	12	12	27	20
Feb. 10,1956	9	8	13	14	20	12	37	15	15	10	10	26	12
Feb. 18,1955	12	10	11	12	17	9	30	23	20	10	15	18	30

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 19 1955	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	Feb. 19 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.38	23.05	31.75	21.38	21.25	29.75	22.12	21.92	29.25
1100-1300	22.98	22.55	33.25	20.62	20.75	29.75	21.55	21.48	30.50
Choice 900-1100	20.38	19.95	28.00	19.00	18.95	25.00	19.42	19.30	25.45
1100-1300	19.58	19.25	27.95	18.50	18.40	25.00	19.18	19.05	25.32
Good 900-1100	17.32	17.02	21.95	16.25	16.20	20.40	16.25	16.05	20.70
Com'l. All wts.	14.90	14.78	17.70	14.50	14.45	16.82	13.55	13.78	17.25
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.78	18.55	23.82	18.25	18.18	22.52	18.35	18.35	22.75
Good 500-900	16.33	16.00	20.02	16.20	15.94	18.65	15.72	15.85	18.25
Com'l. All wts.	13.98	13.72	16.62	14.00	13.88	15.00	13.38	13.42	14.50
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	12.55	12.72	13.60	11.98	12.45	13.10	12.12	12.12	13.1
Utility	11.42	11.58	11.95	10.98	11.45	12.00	10.88	10.88	11.68
Canner & Cutter	10.20	10.38	10.40	9.88	10.22	10.65	9.50	9.50	9.80
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.55	13.55	13.05	--	--	--	12.90	13.12	12.00
Utility & Commercial	15.20	15.45	15.33	13.50	13.50	13.82	13.55	13.74	13.75
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	27.80	28.00	29.00	22.10	24.70	24.00	22.50	22.10	23.00
Com'l. & Good	21.80	22.00	22.20	17.20	18.70	18.70	17.00	16.80	17.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.50	19.50	22.50	16.75	16.85	17.70	18.00	18.00	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.00	15.00	17.00	13.75	13.85	14.40	14.00	14.00	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.25	19.35	22.35	18.65	18.75	22.50	19.00	19.00	22.50
Good " "	16.50	16.60	19.85	17.38	17.38	20.00	17.12	17.12	20.00
Medium 500-1000	14.50	14.50	17.00	15.00	15.00	17.25	14.62	14.62	17.25
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	16.50	16.50	18.25	16.50	16.50	19.00	16.50	16.50	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.50	13.50	15.25	14.00	14.00	15.50	13.50	13.50	14.25
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.00	11.00	11.25	10.88	10.88	11.00
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	20.50	20.50	22.00	19.50	19.50	21.50	20.50	20.50	22.00
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.00	17.00	18.50	17.00	17.00	18.65	17.00	17.00	18.25

HOGS· WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955	18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955	18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	11.90	12.65	16.08	10.26	10.69	15.07	11.90	12.45	16.42
2 and 3	180-200	12.45	13.22	17.05	11.69	12.17	16.45	12.54	13.25	16.90
	200-220	12.40	13.25	16.98	12.18	12.55	16.72	12.55	13.22	16.75
	220-240	12.30	13.10	16.85	11.77	12.23	16.34	12.34	12.92	16.50
	240-270	11.92	12.50	16.05	11.25	11.67	15.72	11.85	12.50	15.75
	270-300	11.64	12.06	15.50	10.65	11.07	14.97	11.30	11.65	15.22
Sows -										
	300-330#	11.25	11.60	15.10	10.35	10.60	14.45	10.92	11.12	14.82
	360-400	10.92	11.10	14.82	9.85	10.10	13.79	10.50	10.55	14.45
	450-550	10.30	10.35	13.98	9.22	9.20	12.62	9.52	9.52	13.90
Pigs (stocker and feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	--	--	--	12.18	12.52	16.98	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	12.56	13.00	17.12	12.86	13.25	17.14	12.30	12.50	--
	200-220	12.56	13.00	17.12	12.88	13.18	17.02	12.52	12.85	16.84
	220-240	12.56	13.00	17.02	12.64	12.92	16.64	12.42	12.80	16.64
	240-270	12.05	12.32	16.35	12.06	12.41	16.00	12.00	12.30	16.05
	270-300	11.40	11.60	15.48	11.58	11.70	15.49	11.28	11.60	15.28
Sows -										
	300-330#	10.90	10.98	--	11.05	11.05	15.25	10.88	11.08	14.42
	360-400	10.90	10.98	14.50	10.55	10.68	14.88	10.48	10.75	14.22
	450-550	10.00	9.90	13.90	9.90	9.95	14.00	9.48	9.88	13.42
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts -										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	12.00	12.05	16.82	13.12	13.81	18.06	13.88	14.22	19.00
2 and 3	180-200	12.98	13.12	16.85	13.38	14.22	18.06	14.22	14.91	19.25
	200-220	12.98	13.12	16.70	13.48	14.22	18.06	14.22	14.91	19.25
	220-240	12.78	12.95	16.32	13.18	13.94	17.81	14.03	14.50	19.00
	240-270	12.26	12.05	15.58	12.45	13.31	17.19	13.06	13.38	18.12
	270-300	11.38	11.42	14.82	11.32	12.19	16.44	12.75	13.00	17.75
Sows -										
	300-330#	10.48	10.52	14.22	9.72	10.06	15.22	12.00	12.12	16.75
	360-400	9.98	10.02	13.60	9.72	10.06	15.19	11.12	11.38	15.75
	450-550	9.50	9.52	12.80	8.20	8.78	13.22	9.75	10.00	15.25
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	10.45	10.45	16.65	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 18,1956	12.02	12.49	12.38	12.19	11.98	12.32	12.09	12.36	12.22
	Feb. 11,1956	12.56	12.77	12.80	12.34	12.26	12.78	12.29	12.93	12.56
	Feb. 19,1955	16.10	16.63	16.66	16.22	15.80	16.73	15.96	16.29	16.22
Sows	Feb. 18,1956	10.59	10.34	10.36	10.42	9.97	10.58	9.98	9.77	10.25
	Feb. 11,1956	10.73	10.36	10.50	10.39	10.23	10.54	10.09	9.91	10.33
	Feb. 19,1955	14.33	14.50	14.51	14.05	13.61	14.51	13.56	14.07	14.11
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 18,1956	239	218	221	230	237	219	224	222	226
	Feb. 11,1956	240	221	223	231	242	221	224	223	228
	Feb. 19,1955	252	223	230	252	255	231	233	226	237
Sows	Feb. 18,1956	443	415	410	407	424	378	416	450	423
	Feb. 11,1956	438	404	431	411	428	413	406	447	423
	Feb. 19,1955	441	411	404	434	437	411	418	448	431
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 18,1956	41921	56620	11324	49771	35289	24101	63750	49351	332127
	Feb. 11,1956	47296	56284	11417	42742	39984	24667	60871	51656	334917
	Feb. 19,1955	43221	46045	8642	38433	34345	19866	52441	58446	301439
Sows	Feb. 18,1956	4322	3177	850	3014	1220	1639	2992	3243	20457
	Feb. 11,1956	3964	3490	670	2502	1613	1675	2575	3408	19897
	Feb. 19,1955	3183	1687	304	1831	1158	799	1901	2269	13132
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Feb. 18,1956	9	5	7	6	3	6	4	6	6
	Feb. 11,1956	8	6	6	6	4	6	4	6	6
	Feb. 19,1955	7	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	4

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Feb. 18, 1956	$15.39	$12.45	+$2.94
Feb. 11, 1956	15.40	13.22	+ 2.18
Feb. 19, 1955	18.66	17.05	+ 1.61

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Feb. 18, 1956	12.02	127.1	9.5
Feb. 11, 1956	12.56	124.6	10.1
Feb. 19, 1955	16.10	150.8	10.7

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Feb. 18, 1956	20.33	19.20	18.65	--	19.32	--	20.00
	Feb. 11, 1956	20.48	19.40	18.65	--	19.75	--	20.00
	Feb. 19, 1955	22.05	21.72	21.38	--	20.96	--	20.50
Good and Choice	Feb. 18, 1956	19.60	18.40	17.55	17.62	18.52	17.50	--
	Feb. 11, 1956	19.78	18.40	17.68	17.88	18.78	17.62	--
	Feb. 19, 1955	21.12	20.72	20.68	19.42*	19.72	20.00	19.50
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 18, 1956	7.25	5.50	4.92	--	8.65	6.25	6.75
	Feb. 11, 1956	7.25	5.45	4.62	--	8.25	6.50	--
	Feb. 19, 1955	8.00	8.00	7.32	--	8.12	--	9.50
Cull and Utility	Feb. 18, 1956	5.50	4.25	4.02	--	6.50	4.25	4.00
	Feb. 11, 1956	5.50	4.70	3.62	--	6.00	4.25	--
	Feb. 19, 1955	6.75	6.50	5.92	--	5.75	--	5.50
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 18, 1956	--	18.50	--	16.95	18.32	--	--
	Feb. 11, 1956	--	--	--	17.00	18.24	--	--
	Feb. 19, 1955	--	20.75	--	19.00	20.25	--	17.00

*Shorn basis.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS

January 1956 - with comparisons

(thousand head)

Region	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep & lambs	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
N. Atlantic States.....	135	122	102	92	610	499	234	229
S. Atlantic States.....	45	39	28	24	298	212	--	--
N. C. States - Eastern.	335	304	202	193	1,500	1,249	145	134
N. C. States - N.Western	500	431	109	97	2,635	2,351	448	412
N. C. States - S.Western	175	157	25	34	695	501	113	117
S. Central States.....	168	170	89	82	523	354	89	67
Mountain States.....	108	102	7	7	123	102	116	88
Pacific States.....	229	197	40	34	321	251	184	176
Total.....	1,697	1,521	602	563	6,705	5,519	1,329	1,223

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head); Jan. 1956 Horses 16,038, goats 4,260; Jan. 1955 - Horses 18,177, goats 4,021.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Aggregate supply of Western dressed fresh meats was normal but mostly in excess of current demand. Buyers continued to operate selectively, with interest confined mainly to selected lots of various primal wholesale cuts. Such transactions generally netted inadequate carcass returns. Sellers were usually unable to advance prices, however, due to concerted price resistance. Prices for the most part, worked downward, with severest declines on fresh pork loins. Compared with the previous week: Steer beef steady to $1.00 lower; cow beef unchanged; veal and calf steady to $2.00 lower; lamb $1.00 to mostly $2.00 higher; pork loins 50¢ to $3.00 lower; other fresh pork cuts $1.00-2.00 higher.

Steer offerings consisted mainly of Good and Choice carcasses of all weights. Very few Prime steer carcasses were included but prices of such offerings were fully $1.00 off. Hindquarter prices were particularly depressed, and were further weakened by sales of carried-over lots. Arm chucks moved freely and generally at upturns but advances were insufficient to offset declines on other wholesale cuts. Price trend on cow carcasses was very uneven.

Supplies of veal were normal, with volume of calf relatively small. A weak undertone blanketed both classes, and while receipts appeared reduced for the period, the supply was ample throughout. Late prices were weak to $2.00 off. Daily clearances of lamb were fairly complete, and prices advanced $1.00-2.00 at the outset, with the advance well sustained on subsequent sessions. Carcasses under 50# were promptly absorbed, and found outlet in practically all retail channels but heavier offerings sold under pressure.

Prices of fresh pork cuts strengthened early. However, demand lagged later, and fresh loins showed progressive downturns, while other cuts closed barely steady.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was fairly active to slow, following the restricted trade on the Monday holiday session, but demand for locally dressed fresh meats lacked urgency. The price undertone generally favored the weak side, but selected lots of beef and lamb sold on a strong price basis. Prices on wholesale cuts of beef and veal, both kosher and non-kosher, held barely steady, while kosher lamb foresaddles worked upward. Progressive downturns were shown on fresh pork loins.

Choice steer offerings predominated, with Prime representing only a small portion of daily kills. Prices on most primal steer cuts held about in line with the previous week, but closing quotations on arm chucks were slightly higher. Trade on rib and loin cuts was generally slow. Demand for kosher steer offerings was slow to fair, with little change in prices.

Price resistance emanated from practically all retail outlets for veal and calf offerings. The supply was normal, and fully ample throughout. Trade lacked stability from the outset as a result of a lag in buyer interest. Movement of carcass lamb scaling 50# down was prompt, and bulk of sales averaged $1.00 higher. Offerings around 55# up sold slowly, however, with bulk marketed in the form of wholesale cuts. Realizations on kosher lamb foresaddles worked progressively higher, and closed $2.00 or more up for the week.

Fresh pork production was sharply reduced but supplies were ample on all sessions. Demand was limited mostly to small retail butcher outlets. Asking prices were higher on practically all fresh pork cuts at the outset, but demand lagged, and prices were revised downward on later sessions.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

The week's supply of steer and heifer beef consisted mostly of Good and Choice grades, with Prime and Commercial in comparatively small volume. Good and Choice 55 to 70# lamb carcasses dominated the lamb supply. Moderate offerings of veal proved fully ample for a dull trade. The supply of fresh pork cuts at the week's opening session was smaller than a week earlier. Later in the week supplies were fully normal to excessive, however, and prices on pork loins declined, erasing the upturns made late the previous week. Other pork cuts declined only slightly. Seasonally small offerings of Prime beef carcasses and equivalent cuts moved well. With that exception the movement of carcass beef was slow. Trading was moderately active on most beef cuts early in the week, accompanied by price advances on Choice loins, particularly lighterweights. However, movement of beef cuts slowed considerably on later sessions. Carcass lamb trade was slow all week, with best action on the limited volume of carcasses 50# and down. In lamb cuts, buyers showed preference for hindquarter meat. Clearances of fresh meats at wholesale are expected to be only fair. Compared to last Thursday's close: Prime beef steady, other grades 50¢ to $1.00 lower; veal steady to $1.00 lower; lamb steady; pork loins 8-16# $1.00 to $2.00 lower; Boston butts 4-8# 50¢ to $1.00 off; spareribs 3# down steady.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks brought $27.00-29.00, comparable rounds $39.00-42.00; Prime loins $79.00-83.00, Choice $52.00-60.00; Prime ribs $54.00-57.00, Choice $37.00-41.00, ribs over 35# down to $32.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles sold from $44.00-51.00; legs $42.00-47.00; loins $50.00-58.00; hotel ribs $48.00-52.00. Pork loins 8-12# cleared at $30.00-34.00, 12-16# $29.00-33.00; Boston butts $25.00-29.00; spareribs $28.00-32.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Beef supplies were liberal at most points on the West Coast with cow beef in smallest volume in California. Hindquarter cuts were usually excessive with breakers and packers reluctant to break carcasses due to the narrow demand for loins and rounds. Supply of veal carcasses was small while calf was more plentiful in California than elsewhere. Volume of other meats was also liberal with fresh pork loins somewhat excessive in Los Angeles. Start of the Lenten Season influenced a reduced consumer demand with trading on most meats slow. Compared with last week's close: Steer beef steady to weak, instances $1.00 lower; cow mostly steady, few $1.00 higher at Los Angeles, and Cutter and Utility $2.00 higher at San Francisco; veal and calf steady; lamb weak to $1.00 lower; fresh pork mostly steady, some early advances of $2.00-3.00 on loins lost; cured pork steady, with slab bacon occasionally $2.00 lower in the Northwest and $2.00 higher at San Francisco; lard steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# cashed mostly from $29.00-34.00, few $35.00 at San Francisco, 700-800# $28.00-31.00; Good under 700# $26.00-33.00; Commercial $25.00-29.00; Utility $23.00-26.00. Commercial cow beef bulked at $23.00-26.00; Utility $22.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00 and in better demand than other cow beef. Good and Choice veal under 150# sold from $44.00-48.00; same grades of calf to 300# $34.00-39.00; Commercial down to $29.00 at Los Angeles. Choice and Prime lamb under 55# brought $35.00-39.00, Good, all weights, $31.00 and up. Closely trimmed pork loins under 16# cashed mostly from $35.00-40.00; shoulders under 16# $23.00-32.00, few above $28.00; Boston butts $29.00-38.00; smoked skinned hams to 18# $41.00-50.00, some under 16# to $52.00 at San Francisco; 6-10# slab bacon $30.00-42.00, sliced 1# packages $35.00-45.00; smoked picnics $26.00-33.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955	18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955	18 1956	Feb. 11 1956	19 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	38.00	39.00	--	37.50	37.50	51.70	--	--	--
700–800	36.00	37.00	50.00	37.50	37.50	51.70	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	32.90	33.15	41.40	34.00	34.00	41.00
600–700	33.50	34.50	44.25	32.90	33.15	42.85	32.00	32.00	39.75
Good 350–600	30.00	30.00	40.00	28.75	29.10	35.80	31.25	31.25	39.38
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	33.80	27.40	27.20	32.00	28.00	28.00	35.50
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	26.00	28.00	--	--	--	26.00	26.00	27.50
Utility	23.00	23.00	24.50	--	--	--	22.80	22.50	24.50
Veal –									
Prime 80-110#	48.50	48.50	48.50	45.50	45.50	47.10	--	--	--
Choice " "	43.00	43.00	42.00	42.40	43.00	44.30	--	--	--
Good " "	35.00	35.60	36.70	37.60	38.00	39.80	45.00	44.20	45.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	37.00	35.20	42.80	35.50	35.50	42.50	39.00	39.00	42.00
50–60	34.00	32.40	42.80	32.50	32.50	41.00	37.00	37.00	40.50
Choice 40–50	37.00	35.20	41.10	35.50	35.50	41.50	38.00	38.00	42.00
50–60	34.00	32.40	41.10	32.50	32.50	38.50	36.00	36.00	40.00
Good all wts.	34.00	32.50	39.70	33.00	33.00	38.00	35.50	36.50	38.00
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	35.50	35.35	43.50	34.45	33.55	41.70	40.20	40.00	48.50
10–12 "	35.50	35.35	43.50	34.45	33.55	41.70	41.00	40.00	47.00
12–16 "	35.17	34.20	41.00	33.65	32.00	40.10	40.20	40.00	44.50
Butts 4–8 "	31.50	30.50	36.50	27.30	27.80	33.00	35.00	35.00	40.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	44.00	44.50	46.50	48.20	48.10	48.10	50.00	50.00	52.50
16–18 "	42.00	41.00	42.20	45.75	45.55	44.80	47.50	47.50	48.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	44.75	43.80	44.20	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	32.65	34.25	52.55	40.00	40.00	57.50
8–10 "	33.00	34.50	45.50	31.80	33.15	49.15	38.00	37.00	52.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	37.50	38.00	49.00	37.75	39.30	53.60	42.50	42.50	56.50
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	23.50	24.00	33.00	28.50	29.70	34.00	30.00	30.00	35.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	12.00	15.00	14.00	11.50	11.50	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.00	16.25	16.50	14.55	14.45	15.25	17.25	16.50	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	25.00	25.00	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Turnover of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market was smaller than a week ago as approximately six cars of various graded wools were sold. Integrated mills and topmakers were competing for limited offerings of combing wools as prices held about unchanged from last week. Occasional lots of scoured wools and noils moved moderately well at last week's price levels. Shearing had started in the Roswell Area of New Mexico and in California.

The strike of waterfront workers in Australia was terminated February 14 and the first sale was held February 16. Up to 250,000 bales are due to be shipped from Australia as shipping becomes available. Auctions resumed in Tasmania February 16. New Zealand prices opened strong but declined as general competition was reported. Buyers competed quite actively in South Africa for the limited volume of combing wools, while short wools were beginning to be offered. South American prices remained firm.

Fleece Wools - Graded 60/62s short French combing and clothing bright fleece wool sold at 48¢ in the grease and was estimated to cost clean around $1.05 while a 50/54s bright staple fleece wool sold around $1.035.

Territory Wools - Graded territory 64/70s good French combing and staple wool sold at $1.32 clean basis while 60/62s brought $1.25 and 56/58s moved at $1.15 clean. Two clips of bulk 3/8s and 1/4 blood with about 10% of half blood and amounting to about 15,000 fleeces, were contracted at 51½¢ and 49¢ in the grease to the grower while another clip of approximately 42,000 fleeces of bulk 1/4 blood was contracted at an estimated clean price ranging from 98¢-$1.02 delivered to the mill.

Texas Wools - Movement of Texas wool was practically at a standstill. There were a few sales of greasy lambs wool around $1.25-1.30 clean basis, delivered Boston.

Mohair - A few cars of mohair were contracted in Texas at 83½¢ for adult and $1.035 for kid mohair to the warehouse. The local trade continued very dull with little or no demand for kid hair.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on February 16 that approximately 3,178,000 pounds of C.C.C.-owned wool, from bids received on a total of about 11,000,000 pounds, were sold. The next competitive bid sale will be held on March 6, 1956. The principal grades, quantity and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory fine short French and clothing	99,310	$1.203-1.225
" " 1/2 blood staple and good French	171,878	1.251-1.261
" " 3/8s " " " " "	155,717	1.186-1.22
" " 1/4 " " " " " 50/54s	60,093	1.102-1.105
" " 1/4 " " " " " 48/50s	363,400	1.07 -1.125
O. B. Texas 12 mos. good French and staple	106,886	1.415-1.442
" " " 12 " average and good French	181,800	1.371-1.401
Graded fleece 1/2 blood staple and good French	71,374	1.18 -1.19
" " 3/8s " " " " "	651,716	1.111-1.126
" " 1/4 " " " " " 50/54s	466,585	1.066-1.076
" " 1/4 " " " " " 48/50s	290,218	1.046-1.076

Foreign Wools - A greasy New Zealand 46/48s carding fleece wool sold for shipment around $1.065 clean basis, duty paid. Montevideo shippers were asking 67¢ grease basis, in bond for super skirted wools ranging from 56s to 60s for shipment.

The United States calf crop in 1955 totaled 43,001,000 head, 1 percent more than the 42,601,000 head born in 1954, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is the sixth successive increase over the preceding year since the number of cattle began to show an upward trend beginning in 1949. The 1955 calf crop was 20 percent larger than the 1944-53 average.

The large 1955 calf crop resulted from a record number of cows and heifers on farms during 1955. The number of all cows and heifers 2 years old and older on January 1, 1955, was 49,121,000 head--less than 1 percent larger than the number on hand a year earlier. Although cow slaughter was high during 1955, cow herds stayed large throughout the year to produce the record calf crop.

The number of calves born expressed as a percentage of cows and heifers 2 years old and older on January 1, 1955, was 88 percent--1 percentage point above the previous year, and 4 percentage points above the 10-year average of 84 percent. This figure is not strictly a calving rate since the January 1 inventory of cows and heifers 2 years old and older does not include all the heifers which gave birth to calves during the year. The percentage is calculated to show the trend in productivity over a long period of time. It may fluctuate from year to year due to variations in cow slaughter during the year and trends in breeding herd replacements.

The calf crop of 18,133,000 head in the North Central States was 6,000 head smaller than in 1954, but 15 percent above the 10-year average. Each of the East North Central States showed fewer calves born in 1955 than a year earlier except Ohio. All West North Central States, with the exception of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, showed fewer calves born in 1955 than a year earlier. In the North Central States, the number of cows and heifers on hand January 1, 1955 was 19,877,000 head--an increase of less than 1 percent from the 19,794,000 head on January 1, 1954. The number of calves born as a percentage of cows and heifers 2 years old and older on January 1, 1955 was 91 percent, compared with 92 percent in 1954 and the 10-year average of 89 percent.

The Western States showed a calf crop of 7,266,000 head in 1955 compared with 7,056,000 born in 1954. Only three of the Western States, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona, showed fewer calves born in 1955 than in the previous year. All other Western States reported larger calf crops. The number of all cows and heifers on farms and ranches on January 1, 1955 totaled 8,208,000 head--an increase of 2 percent from January 1, 1954. The calf crop expressed as a percentage of cows and heifers two years old and older was 89 percent compared with 88 percent a year earlier.

In the South Central States, the calf crop is estimated at 11,202,000 head compared with 11,089,000 in 1954. The number of all cows and heifers two years and older on January 1, 1955 totaled 13,151,000 head--a decrease of 1 percent from 1954. The calf crop expressed as a percentage of all cows and heifers two years old and older was 85 percent compared with 84 in 1954. Texas, the leading cattle producing State, showed 4,297,000 calves born--1 percent above 4,242,000 head born in 1954. The number of cows and heifers two years old and older on January 1, 1955 in Texas was 4,828,000 head--2 percent below a year earlier.

In the North Atlantic region, the calf crop totaled 3,095,000 head compared with 3,023,000 head a year earlier. The number of cows and heifers two years old and older on January 1, 1955 was 3,599,000 head compared with 3,581,000 head on January 1, 1954. The calf crop was 86 percent of the number of cows and heifers two years old and older on January 1, 1955.

In the South Atlantic States, the calf crop was 3,305,000 head--about the same as the previous year. The number of cows and heifers two years old and older on January 1, 1955 totaled 4,286,000 head--only slightly larger than a year earlier. The calf crop was 77 percent of the number of cows and heifers two years old and older on January 1, 1955.

1/ Not strictly a calving rate. Figure represents calves born expressed as percentage of the January 1 inventory of cows and heifers 2 years old and over on January 1 and not the number of all cows and heifers giving birth to calves during the year.

CALF CROP REPORT - 1955

State and Division	Calves born			Cows and heifers 2 yrs. & older January 1			Calves born as pct. of cows & heifers 2 yrs. & older Jan. 1 1/		
	10-yr. average 1944-53	1954	1955	10-yr. average 1944-53	1954	1955	10-yr. average 1944-53	1954	1955
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Maine	110	115	116	130	135	132	85	85	88
N. H.	61	64	66	73	74	73	83	86	90
Vt.	236	262	275	298	320	323	79	82	85
Mass.	108	107	109	135	132	128	80	81	85
R. I.	16	16	16	21	20	19	79	80	84
Conn.	99	96	104	123	121	122	81	79	85
N. Y.	1,227	1,300	1,344	1,441	1,512	1,527	85	86	88
N. J.	121	134	129	156	161	161	78	83	80
Pa.	857	929	936	1,006	1,106	1,114	85	84	84
N. Atl.	2,837	3,023	3,095	3,382	3,581	3,599	83	84	86
Ohio	997	1,018	1,021	1,162	1,184	1,173	86	86	87
Ind.	848	906	890	950	1,029	1,000	89	88	89
Ill.	1,282	1,408	1,380	1,442	1,565	1,516	89	90	91
Mich.	889	871	848	1,034	1,013	998	86	86	85
Wis.	2,242	2,464	2,452	2,501	2,621	2,665	90	94	92
E. N. Cent.	6,258	6,667	6,591	7,088	7,412	7,352	88	90	90
Minn.	1,610	1,674	1,720	1,785	1,820	1,830	90	92	94
Iowa	1,755	2,052	2,033	1,943	2,137	2,140	90	96	95
Mo.	1,506	1,835	1,810	1,668	2,039	2,011	90	90	90
N. Dak.	712	853	915	817	937	984	87	91	93
S. Dak.	1,037	1,428	1,508	1,194	1,536	1,587	87	93	95
Nebr.	1,447	1,848	1,813	1,642	1,976	2,036	88	94	89
Kans.	1,412	1,782	1,743	1,626	1,937	1,937	87	92	90
W. N. Cent.	9,479	11,472	11,542	10,674	12,382	12,525	89	93	92
N. Cent.	15,736	18,139	18,133	17,763	19,794	19,877	89	92	91
Del.	32	36	36	40	46	45	80	78	79
Md.	214	258	264	254	311	311	84	83	85
Va.	527	670	658	638	817	803	82	82	82
W. Va.	265	286	293	313	344	341	85	83	86
N. C.	329	441	444	437	566	576	75	78	77
S. C.	173	262	266	229	336	345	75	78	77
Ga.	455	668	683	609	805	864	75	83	79
Fla.	448	673	661	710	1,035	1,001	63	65	66
S. Atl.	2,442	3,294	3,305	3,230	4,260	4,286	75	77	77
Ky.	729	898	886	841	1,021	995	87	88	89
Tenn.	733	897	900	847	1,055	1,046	86	85	86
Ala.	561	809	820	738	1,064	1,051	76	76	78
Miss.	678	1,005	1,056	960	1,305	1,408	70	77	75
Ark.	566	717	703	696	919	890	81	78	79
La.	642	872	966	865	1,163	1,164	74	75	83
Okla.	1,298	1,649	1,574	1,512	1,792	1,769	86	92	89
Tex.	3,834	4,242	4,297	4,753	4,932	4,828	81	86	89
S. Cent.	9,040	11,089	11,202	11,213	13,251	13,151	81	84	85
Mont.	819	1,089	1,141	923	1,158	1,214	89	94	94
Idaho	382	522	554	456	567	602	84	92	92
Wyo.	429	516	483	526	580	568	82	89	85
Colo.	728	873	846	857	981	920	85	89	92
N. Mex.	554	541	572	701	693	689	79	78	83
Ariz.	363	378	377	473	478	477	77	79	79
Utah	248	334	342	302	371	364	82	90	94
Nev.	212	233	260	278	311	317	76	75	82
Wash.	396	493	515	481	536	560	82	92	92
Oreg.	467	611	619	583	719	728	80	85	85
Calif.	1,214	1,466	1,557	1,489	1,666	1,769	82	88	88
West	5,812	7,056	7,266	7,069	8,060	8,208	82	88	89
U. S.	35,867	42,601	43,001	42,657	48,946	49,121	84	87	88

1/ See footnote bottom of page 160.

Stocker and feeder cattle and sheep received in several Corn Belt States 1/
January 1956, with comparisons

Cattle and Calves

State	Public Stock Yards		Direct		Total		Cumulative Total	
	January		January		January		Jan.-Dec. incl.	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1955	1954
Ohio	7,575	9,084	2,494	779	10,069	9,863	125,107	139,799
Indiana	5,558	6,079	1,231	3,170	6,789	9,249	160,266	208,929
Illinois	23,244	24,414	41,606	43,095	64,850	67,509	794,849	973,502
Michigan	3,406	3,507	2,132	559	5,538	4,066	67,261	87,358
Wisconsin	2,012	593	512	243	2,524	836	27,053	35,353
Minnesota	8,891	9,766	14,148	15,813	23,039	25,579	272,112	297,874
Iowa	53,014	69,906	33,320	31,318	86,334	101,224	1,214,751	1,649,131
South Dakota	5,754	9,377	783	2,090	6,537	11,467	58,703	134,893
Nebraska	19,587	39,043	23,895	25,137	43,482	64,180	350,496	748,760
Total 9 States	129,041	171,769	120,121	122,204	249,162	293,973	3,070,598	4,275,59

Sheep and Lambs

Ohio	1,223	6,302	1,046	645	2,269	6,947	51,004	68,616
Indiana	1,663	1,422	581	2,031	2,244	3,453	94,790	117,155
Illinois	8,478	7,151	7,357	12,614	15,835	19,765	221,236	315,686
Michigan	501	884	790	834	1,291	1,718	28,130	27,602
Wisconsin	---	1,214	---	---	---	1,214	17,950	34,650
Minnesota	14,018	18,269	5,636	13,696	19,654	31,965	191,886	267,502
Iowa	16,892	30,859	80,322	69,140	97,214	99,999	701,377	996,996
South Dakota	4,181	11,461	4,312	5,574	8,493	17,035	94,902	187,533
Nebraska	5,184	26,347	7,982	17,715	13,166	44,062	500,363	1,032,490
Total 9 States	52,140	103,909	108,026	122,249	160,166	226,158	1,901,638	3,048,230

1/ Data in this report are obtained from offices of State Veterinarians. Under "Public Stockyards" are included stockers and feeders which were bought at stockyards markets. Under "Direct" are included stockers and feeders coming from other States from points other than public stockyards, some of which are inspected at public stockyards while stopping for feed, water, and rest en route.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
Agricultural Estimates Division
Washington, D. C.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, JANUARY 31, 1956

Storage gains in stocks of beef brought total holdings up to 210 million pounds by January 31. A year earlier, holdings totaled 175 million pounds while the average for this date is 214 million pounds. The seasonal gain in stocks of pork fell short of the usual January increase by 49 million pounds but exceeded that of last January by 9 million. Holdings of pork were increased by 61 million pounds during January which raised total stocks to 482 million pounds as compared with 573 million pounds, the 5-year average for January 31, and 501 million pounds in storage this time last year.

UNITED STATES STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, JAN. 31, 1956, WITH COMPARISONS
(Includes holdings in public, private and semi-private cold storage houses and meat packing plants)

Commodity	Jan. 31 1956	Dec. 31 1955	Jan. 31 1955	Jan. 31 1951-55 av.	Jan. 31, 1956 as % of Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 31 5-yr. av.
BEEF:	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#			
Frozen	199,125	195,042	165,681	202,238	102	120	98
In cure, cured & smkd.	10,687	10,349	9,070	11,665	103	118	92
Total	209,812	205,391	174,751	213,903	102	120	98
PORK:							
Frozen	357,435	307,851	354,483	379,378	116	101	94
Dry salt, in cure and cured	29,392	27,856	37,147	43,208	106	79	68
Other, in cure, cured and smoked	94,725	85,109	109,217	149,953	111	87	63
Total	481,552	420,816	500,847	572,539	114	96	84
OTHER MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS:							
Sausage & sausage room products	16,116	14,460	13,848	15,924	111	116	101
Frozen lamb & mutton	10,440	10,630	8,767	12,991	98	119	80
Frozen veal	18,374	19,000	19,164	17,619	97	96	104
Canned meats & meat products	46,386	36,649	60,035	41,854	127	77	111
All edible offal	67,846	69,741	60,754	63,995	97	112	106
Total other meats & meat products	159,162	150,480	162,568	152,383	106	98	104
Total all meats	850,526	776,687	838,166	938,825	110	101	91
Lard, rendered & refined 1/	2/	146,985	124,391	144,950	--	--	--
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS 3/							
Pork	5,365	6,152	12,513	2/	87	43	--
Beef	7,544	8,270	9,678	2/	91	78	--

1/ In dry and cold storage as reported by Bureau of Census.
2/ Not available.
3/ Government holdings are included in the totals and consist of reported stocks held by U.S.D.A., the Armed Services and other Government agencies.

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WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 147

Trading on slaughter steers and heifers at western terminals was featured by an uneven price trend. At Portland closing prices were strong to 50¢ higher, at Stockton and S. San Francisco about steady, trend at other centers mainly weak to 50¢ lower. Sales out of California feedlots were mostly steady to weak, instances 50¢ lower. Cows closed strong to 75¢ higher at California terminals and Portland, but declined 25¢-$1.00 in the intermountain area. Vealers and slaughter calves sold 50¢-$1.00 lower at Denver, firm to 50¢ higher elsewhere. Barrows and gilts closed 25¢-$1.00 lower; slaughter lambs steady to 50¢ lower, some late sales $1.00-1.50 off at Portland.

Good and Choice slaughter steers under 1200# cashed at terminal markets from $14.50-19.25, a few loads average-Choice to low-Prime $19.50-20.00. Good and Choice slaughter heifers cleared from $14.00-17.25, average to high-Choice $17.50-18.40 at Denver, with one load Choice to Prime 1057# at $19.00. Utility and Commercial cows brought $9.50-13.50; Canners and Cutters $7.50-10.50. Choice and Prime vealers earned $26.00-28.00, a few up to $30.00; Good and Choice $20.00-26.00, except at Denver where these grades brought $16.00-20.00. High-Good to Choice stock steer calves cleared from $17.00-20.75, a small lot Choice $22.50 at Denver. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers bulked from $15.00-17.50, Choice 500-600# stockers $18.00-19.00 at Stockton.

Choice fed steers under 1250# sold direct out of feedlots mostly from $17.50-18.50, several loads in Southern California $18.75-19.00. One ten-load string of longfed lightweight steers was contracted at $19.50 in the latter area, majority to be delivered by the end of this month, balance by April 1. Good to low-Choice steers for immediate delivery made $16.00-17.25; Choice heifers $16.50-17.00, few loads $17.50, some mixed Good and Choice $15.50-16.00; sales f.o.b. feedlots mostly with 4% shrink.

Mixed No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts bulked at $14.00 late at S. San Francisco; $14.50 at Stockton; $14.00-14.50 at Los Angeles; $13.00-14.50 at Portland; $14.25 at Spokane; $13.00-13.50 at Ogden, and $12.00-13.00 at Denver. Choice and Prime 91-109# wooled slaughter lambs brought $19.25-19.50 at Denver, some 111-120# $18.25-19.25. Choice wooled offerings reached $20.50 at S. San Francisco; load Choice and Prime 105# $19.00 at Portland. Other Good and Choice wooled slaughter lambs cashed from $16.00-18.50 at terminal markets. The same grades of old crop lambs from the Imperial Valley mostly with No. 1 pelts brought $18.00-18.50, other bids and a few sales at $18.50 for 105# down, with 10¢ off for each pound over 105 pounds.